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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Hidekuni MORIYA, et al.

Appln. No.: 09/674,620

Group Art Unit: 2624

Filed: November 3, 2000

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

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Technology Center 2600

For: IMAGE DATA RETOUCHING APPARATUS, IMAGE DATA RETOUCHING
METHOD AND MEDIUM ON WHICH IMAGE DATA RETOUCHING PROGRAM IS
RECORDED

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter the following amended claims:

3. (Amended) An image data retouching apparatus, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein
said picture element characteristic determining unit utilizes for determination the positive or
negative polarization of said distribution.

4. (Amended) An image data retouching apparatus, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein
said picture element characteristic determining unit determines picture elements to be edge
picture elements if the distribution in said range of greater differences is dominant and if said
distribution is polarized positively or negatively.

Tm